



THE REAL NEWS Louisiana

★ THE CITY OF NATCHITOCHEs PRESENTS ★



AMERICA'S 250

★ YEARS OF FREEDOM ★

★ LIVE SHOW ★
5:30 PM – 9:30 PM

★ JULY 4 ★


FOOD TRUCKS


KIDS AREA


FIREWORKS
STARTS AT 9:30

FREE ADMISSION

★ ON THE DOWNTOWN ★
NATCHITOCHEs
River Bank



JOHNNY EARTHQUAKE

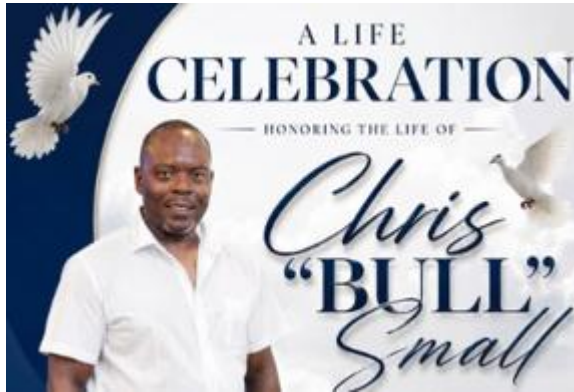


PATRICK HARRIS

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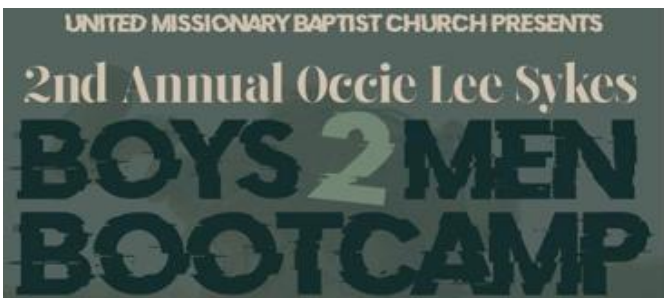
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And Much More...

CITY OF NATCHITOCHEs TO PRESENT AMERICA'S 250TH BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION ON RIVERBANK JULY 4



The City of Natchitoches, in cooperation with the Cane River Waterway Commission, will present a massive celebration of America's 250th birthday on the downtown Riverbank beginning at 5:30 p.m. on July 4.

Admission is free for this family-friendly event, which will feature live music, food trucks, activities for children and a huge fireworks display to close out the evening.

Natchitoches Mayor Ronnie Williams said the event will not only celebrate America's birthday, but will also recognize hometown heroes, including veterans, active-duty military members, law enforcement officers, firefighters and first responders.

The music lineup will feature artists with roots in Natchitoches who have gone on to gain recognition across Louisiana and throughout the region.

Kicking off the music at 5:30 p.m. will be Natchitoches native soul and R&B vocalist Patrick Harris. Harris grew up in Natchitoches and later made his mark in Texas as the lead singer for the renowned group Grady Gaines and the Texas Upsetters. Gaines was a saxophonist for Little Richard.

During his 26-year career with the Upsetters, Harris had the opportunity to perform for both Presidents Bush, Tiger Woods and many others. He now performs weekly at The Loft on Front Street.

Louisiana Music Hall of Famer, Natchitoches native and country artist Trini Triggs will follow Harris on stage at 6 p.m. Triggs' high-energy show will feature songs he recorded as a Curb Records artist, along with some of his favorite popular cover tunes.

Louisiana Music Hall of Fame members Johnny Earthquake and the Moondogs also call Natchitoches home. For more than 30 years, the band has developed a reputation for being, as one writer called them, "quite simply, Louisiana's best show band!"

Johnny Earthquake and the Moondogs will close out the music for the evening at 8 p.m., arriving in Natchitoches after performing their annual concert before thousands on the beach in Pensacola, Florida.

A massive fireworks display will close out the evening's activities at 9:30 p.m.

"The City of Natchitoches is proud to host this amazing family-friendly event for both our citizens and out-of-town visitors," said Mayor Williams. "We believe we have some of the best musical talent anywhere right here in our town, and we are proud to be able to spotlight it. And who doesn't like a great fireworks display? Nobody does fireworks like Natchitoches."

Mayor Williams said he is also looking forward to recognizing Natchitoches' hometown heroes for their service."



The 46th Annual Natchitoches-NSU Folk Festival



Brandon Cagle making a pot

NATCHITOCHEs – The 46th Annual Natchitoches-NSU Folk Festival will be held on Saturday July 18, 2026, in air-conditioned Prather Coliseum located at 220 South Jefferson Street at Northwestern State University in Natchitoches. The festival’s curated showcase of Louisiana folk musicians, food vendors, and traditional crafts persons will open at 9 am, with live entertainment scheduled for 9:45 AM to 9:30 PM.

The family-oriented festival is fully wheelchair accessible. Children 12 and under are admitted free. Tickets are \$10 at the door for all events, or \$6 for an evening pass to all events after 5 PM.

In honor of the 2026 Festival theme, “America the Beautiful,” the Festival will feature the traditional music of the nation – blues, gospel, Cajun, Celtic, country, bluegrass, and zydeco on three stages of music as well as in the Magale Recital Hall. Music and dance headliners include Cajun bands Kevin Naquin and the Ossun Playboys and Poisson Rouge, zydeco band Geno Delafosse and French Rockin’ Boogie, blues artists the Wayne “Blue” Burns Band and the Snake Doctors, western swing and classic country artists Gal Holiday and the Honky Revue, the Rising Dragon Lion Dance Team, bluegrass group Catahoula Drive, gospel groups the Amazing! Rhythm Disciples and the Winnsboro Easter Rock Ensemble, and dance performances by Native Nations Intertribal, the Rising Dragon Lion Dance Team, the Thistle Dancers and Pipers, and Fijian traditional dance by the Rokobou Family. In addition will be a special appearance by Kovanda’s Czech Band which will accompany the Louisiana Czech Heritage Dancers. The festival also includes numerous food vendors offering traditional Louisiana cuisine. Outdoor activities feature demonstrations of traditional blacksmithing, Dutch oven cooking, and a child-friendly hands-on demonstration of a 19th century wash day. **Continued Page 5...**



The Rising Dragon Lion Dance Team

Continued from Page 4...

The 46th Annual Natchitoches-NSU Folk Festival

More than 80 crafts vendors have been invited to display and discuss their traditional work with festival patrons. Craftspeople are expected to display beadwork, baskets, cowhide chair covers, alligator jewelry, Pysanky eggs, Native American crafts, and pottery. Other expected craftspeople will display needlework, wood carvings, handmade toys and dolls, paintings, sculpture, homemade soap, spinning & weaving, handcrafted knives, handmade brooms, walking sticks, folk art quilts, and more.

The Festival will include a Gumbo Cookoff, in which professionals and hobbyists alike can compete in one of multiple categories and demonstrate their cooking skills in any of three categories – Seafood, Poultry Plus, and People’s Choice. All gumbo must be cooked on-site, with no commercial or pre-made roux allowed. Poultry, meat, seafood, rice, and broth or stock may be prepared in advance or on-site, and canned broth is allowed. Registration and the Cooks’ Meeting will take place at 8:00 AM. Tasting and judging will begin at 12:30 PM, with winners announced at 3:15 PM. There is no fee to compete in the Cookoff.

The Annual Louisiana State Fiddle Championship will be held at 1:30 PM in the Magale Recital Hall. There will be a non-championship class and a championship class. A twin fiddle category will also be held. Registration is at noon in the first-floor foyer outside Magale Recital Hall. The Fiddle Championship winner will perform on the main stage in Prather Coliseum at 5:00 PM. The festival includes several opportunities for patrons to engage directly with Louisiana folk culture. Free dance lessons include clogging or flatfoot dancing with Clancey Stewart, Celtic dance taught by the Thistle Dancers and Pipers, and Cajun and zydeco dancing taught by the Cajun French Music Association Dance Troupe. Interactive activities include dancing with the Louisiana Czech Heritage Dancers and Native Nations Intertribal.



Geno Delafosse (photo by Masahiro Sumori)



Kevin Naquin (photo by David Simpson)

Continued from Pages 4,5...

The 46th Annual Natchitoches-NSU Folk Festival

“The festival bridges the distance between artists and the festival patrons, thus breaking the artificial barriers between artists and audience,” said Dr. Shane Rasmussen, director of the festival and NSU’s Louisiana Folklife Center. “Rather than watching from the sidelines, everyone who takes part in these activities will share and engage in Louisiana’s rich culture.”



Gal Holiday (photo by Jack Dallas)

KidFest will be available from 9 AM to 4 PM. Kidfest is an area dedicated to child-friendly activities and is a fun way for children to examine their own cultural and family traditions as well as those from around the state

Narrative sessions will be held in the festival N-Club Room from 10 AM to 5 PM and feature presentations on the making of the first sinker cypress fiddle, traditional carding, spinning, and weaving, Fijian traditional culture, Louisiana foodways, and heritage language revitalization. In addition will be music informances on Cajun music with bands Kevin Naquin and the Ossun Playboys and Poisson Rouge. ASL interpretation, assistive listening devices, and audio description for these cultural discussions will be made available upon prior request by July 10. The Festival is fully wheelchair accessible.

This year also features several pre-Festival events which are free and open to the general public. A Visit with the Bagpipe will be held at 2 PM on July 11 at the Louisiana Sports Hall of Fame and Northwest Louisiana History Museum at 800 Front Street in Natchitoches. Attendees at this free workshop will learn the basics of traditional Celtic bagpipe and drumming, as well as Highland dance. The workshop will also feature a Celtic music and dance performance by the Thistle Dancers and Pipers. A second free pre-festival event will be a music and dance performance by Native Nations Intertribal at 6 PM on July 17 at the Louisiana Sports Hall of Fame. Members of Native Nations Intertribal will also engage in a discussion of their traditions with anthropologist Dr. Hiram “Pete” Gregory, an expert on Southeastern Native American tribes and culture.

For a full schedule of events, online registration forms to participate in the Louisiana State Fiddle Championship and the Gumbo Cookoff, or to make a donation contact the Louisiana Folklife Center at (318) 357-4332, email folklife@nsula.edu, or go to www.nsula.edu/folklife/.

Support for the Festival is provided by grants from the Cane River National Heritage Area, Inc., the Louisiana Division of the Arts Decentralized Arts Fund Program, the Louisiana Endowment for the Humanities, the Natchitoches Area Convention and Visitors Bureau, the Natchitoches Historic District Development Commission, the New Orleans Jazz and Heritage Foundation, the Shreveport Regional Arts Council, and the State of Louisiana. The views, findings, conclusions or recommendations expressed in this program will not necessarily represent those of the Louisiana Endowment for the Humanities. The festival is sponsored by Alliance Compressors, Atmos Energy, C&H Precision Machining, City Bank, Cleco, Evans Family, LLC, the Harrington Law Firm, Natchitoches Wood Preserving Company, Ronnie’s Auto Glass and Collision Center, and Young Estate, LLC.

Seriously injured?

L E T S G E T



HAPPY FOURTH OF JULY



FROM THE
Washington Law Firm



(318) 438-5600

Natchitoches Office | LA-25-19319



Attorney Alex
Washington Jr.
Licensed in La. and Tx

**410 Texas Street,
Natchitoches, La. 71457**

Attorney Alex
Washington III

HAPPY FOURTH OF JULY
FROM THE WASHINGTON LAW FIRM

We will help with criminal issues outside of Natchitoches!

4th of July Safety Tips

Independence Day is a time for fireworks, barbecues, and celebrations — but it's also one of the busiest days for injuries. Keep your holiday safe with these quick tips:

Fireworks

- Attend public displays when possible — they're the safest option.
- If using consumer fireworks, follow local laws, keep water nearby, light one at a time, and never let kids handle them.
- Soak used fireworks in water before disposal.

Grilling

- Keep the grill 10 feet from buildings and overhangs.
- Never leave it unattended.
- Cook foods to safe temperatures and keep hot foods hot.

Heat & Sun

- Drink plenty of water.
- Apply sunscreen and take shade breaks.
- Watch for signs of heat exhaustion.

General Safety

- Designate a sober driver.
- Supervise children around water and crowds.
- Have a family meeting spot in case anyone gets separated.

Celebrate responsibly and enjoy a fun, injury-free 4th of July!



HAPPY
4TH *Of* JULY
INDEPENDENCE DAY



Real Pain.
Real Patients.
Real Relief.

★★★★★
"Amazing doctor and staff..."

★★★★★
"...alleviating pain.... improving quality of life..."

★★★★★
"I highly recommend."

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Chronic pain does not have to control your life. At the NRMC Pain Management Institute, Dr. Julian F. Naranjo and our team are dedicated to helping patients find relief and improve quality of life through personalized pain management care.

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From your reproductive years through menopause and beyond, routine OB/GYN care plays an essential role in protecting your health. Regular wellness exams help detect uterine cancer and other gynecologic concerns early, when treatment is often most effective, and provides the preventative care you need to stay well.

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Don't wait for symptoms to prioritize your health - schedule your annual exam today.
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Uterine Cancer Awareness Month • Know the signs. Know your risk. Know your options.

RECALL
SIGNING



PETITION
LOCATION

WEDNESDAY



Natchitoches



4:00PM - 6:00PM

BDJ Center

400 Martin Luther King Blvd

Natchitoches, LA 71457

Lead: Pamela C.

indoors

RECALL EDWARDS | RECALL LANDRY | RECALL MURRILL | RECLAIM LOUISIANA

JULY 1ST

GET MORE INFO AT LOUISIANADESERVESBETTER.COM

Louisiana Senate Showdown: A Historic Opportunity for Jamie Davis

On November 3, 2026, Democrat Jamie Davis will take on Republican Julia Letlow for Louisiana’s open U.S. Senate seat, currently held by Bill Cassidy. Davis, a hardworking row-crop farmer and Tensas Parish police juror, emerged victorious from the Democratic runoff and made history as the first Black candidate to reach the general election for U.S. Senate in Louisiana since Reconstruction.


Davis brings a genuine, boots-on-the-ground perspective to Washington. As a farmer who understands the daily struggles of rural families, he is well-positioned to fight for agriculture, economic opportunity, healthcare access, and fair policies that lift up working Louisianans. His campaign represents a fresh voice committed to bridging divides and delivering real results for everyday people.

While the race will be challenging in a Republican-leaning state, Davis’s compelling personal story, community roots, and dedication offer voters a clear choice for positive change. Early voting begins in late October—Louisiana has the chance to send a historic, principled leader to the Senate.

U.S. SENATE RACE


RESULTS

GENERAL ELECTION
TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 3, 2026



JULIA LETLOW
REPUBLICAN

VS.



JAMIE DAVIS
DEMOCRAT

YOUR VOTE. YOUR VOICE. OUR FUTURE.

LOUISIANA DECIDES

UNITED MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH PRESENTS
2nd Annual Occie Lee Sykes
**BOYS 2 MEN
BOOTCAMP**



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BOOTCAMP**



Shreveport Freshman Connection helps students discover opportunities close to home at NSU

Freshman Connection at NSU's Shreveport location introduces incoming students to academic programs, campus resources and healthcare career pathways. NATCHITOCHEs – Students from across Northwest Louisiana gathered at Northwestern State University's Shreveport location on June 25 for Freshman Connection, where incoming students explored academic opportunities and prepared for the transition to college while remaining close to home.



NSU-Shreveport

Elizabeth (Ellie) Hardy greets incoming students during check-in at Freshman Connection on NSU's Shreveport campus.

Held in Shreveport's medical district, Freshman Connection connected students with academic advisors, campus resources and fellow students while providing a first look at life as a Demon. Current students serving as Freshman Connectors guided participants through the program and shared their experiences at Northwestern State.

Elizabeth (Ellie) Hardy of Haughton, a graduate of Haughton High School, served as a Freshman Connector during the program. Hardy said Freshman Connection helps incoming students become familiar with Northwestern State and the resources available to them.

"Freshman Connection is a program to get students oriented with Northwestern and college as a whole," Hardy said. "We get them associated with all the resources, and that's the same at the satellite campuses."

Freshman Connection places students in small groups led by current Northwestern State students who help incoming freshmen navigate the transition from high school to college. Participants also meet with academic advisors and register for fall classes.

Hardy said NSU's Shreveport location offers students the opportunity to stay close to home while benefiting from personalized instruction.

"NSU Shreveport is super awesome and special because it's close to home for a lot of the students," Hardy said. "They love the one-on-one instruction they get to have with their instructors."

Incoming student Jakobe Delaney of Haughton, a graduate of Haughton High School, plans to study nursing at Northwestern State. Delaney said staying close to home and following in the footsteps of family members who attended NSU made the decision an easy one.

"I chose to stay at home because I am a big family person," Delaney said. "My stepmom was actually a nurse, and she went to Northwestern as well."

Continued next page...

Shreveport Freshman Connection helps students discover opportunities close to home at NSU

Located in the heart of Shreveport's medical district, NSU's Shreveport location serves as a hub for nursing and allied health education in North Louisiana. Programs offered include the Associate of Science in Nursing, Bachelor of Science in Nursing, Bachelor of Science in Radiologic Sciences and Doctor of Nursing Practice in nurse anesthesia. Students benefit from clinical partnerships, simulation laboratories and connections to hospitals and healthcare organizations throughout the region.

Essence Ortojan of Bossier City, a graduate of Airline High School, plans to study nursing at Northwestern State. Ortojan said the university's welcoming atmosphere and proximity to home confirmed it was the right fit.

"I love being with my family and being close to them, and it's so close to home I felt like it was the perfect school for me," Ortojan said. "It just feels really homey and less scary here, and way more fun."

Freshman Connection sessions continue throughout the summer. The final session on the Natchitoches campus is scheduled for July 9.

Information about Freshman Connection and orientation programs is available through Northwestern State's Office of First Year Experience and Student Engagement at nsula.edu/fye or by calling (318) 357-5559.

Registration for the fall semester will continue through Aug. 16. Information about registration is available at vic.nsula.edu.

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MOSES & MOSES
MORTUARY
FUNERAL HOME AND CREMATION SERVICES

CELEBRATING THE
Life
OF
HARDY LEE
BOOTH JR.



NOVEMBER 23, 1976 – JUNE 25, 2026

*“Well done, good
and faithful servant.”*
– Matthew 25:23

FUNERAL SERVICE
SATURDAY, JULY 4, 2026
VIEWING: 11:00 AM – 1:00 PM
FUNERAL SERVICE: 1:00 PM

 PLACE OF SERVICE
CHRISTIAN OUTREACH
106 Brickyard Road
Natchitoches, LA 71457

 INTERMENT
FERN PARK CEMETERY
1560 Grace Avenue
Natchitoches, LA 71457

Celebrating the Life of Hardy Lee Booth Jr. It is with heavy hearts and grateful spirits that we celebrate the beautiful life of Hardy Lee Booth Jr. — a devoted husband, father, friend, and faithful servant of God.

Born on November 23, 1976 and called home on June 25, 2026. Hardy lived a life of purpose, love, and quiet strength that touched everyone around him. His legacy of kindness, integrity, and unwavering faith continues to shine brightly.

“Well done, good and faithful servant.”
— Matthew 25:23 ✨


Please come together with family and friends to share memories, offer comfort, and rejoice in the life of a man who truly made a difference. All are welcome.

Rest in peace, Hardy. Your light will never be forgotten.

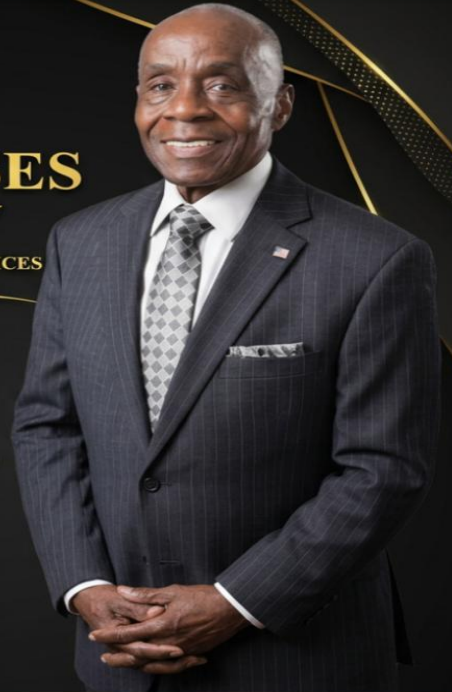
— Moses & Moses Mortuary
Funeral Home and Cremation Services

ANNOUNCEMENT:

Moses and Moses Mortuary Chapel Opens New Location in Natchitoches



MOSES & MOSES
MORTUARY
FUNERAL HOME AND CREMATION SERVICES

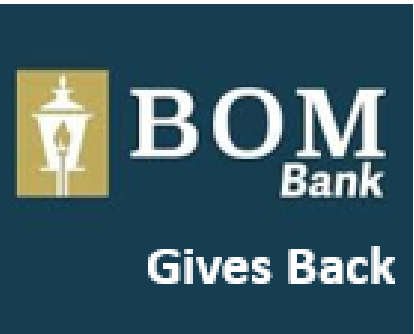


Leonard Moses
📍 106 Brickyard Rd. Ste A,
Natchitoches, LA 71457

☎️ (318) 238-6165
(318) 209-9700
(318) 352-9358

“We honor all insurance policies.”

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NATCHITOCHEs:

Join us in congratulating Drake Hale on his promotion to Loan Participation Specialist! As a former Senior Credit Analyst, Drake has consistently demonstrated the dedication, expertise, and strong work ethic that make him an excellent fit for this new role. We are thrilled to see him take on this new opportunity and are confident that he will continue to do great things as he moves forward. Congratulations, Drake!

RAPIDES:

BOM Bank is proud to sponsor the 3rd Annual Cruising for Kindness Car Show at Lake Buhlow in Pineville, LA. We love supporting events that bring the community together for a great cause, and all proceeds from this event benefit the Ronald McDonald House Charities of South Louisiana. From classic cars to community kindness, it was a wonderful day making a difference together! Pictured left to right: BOM’s Titan Marler and Nashua Paul.



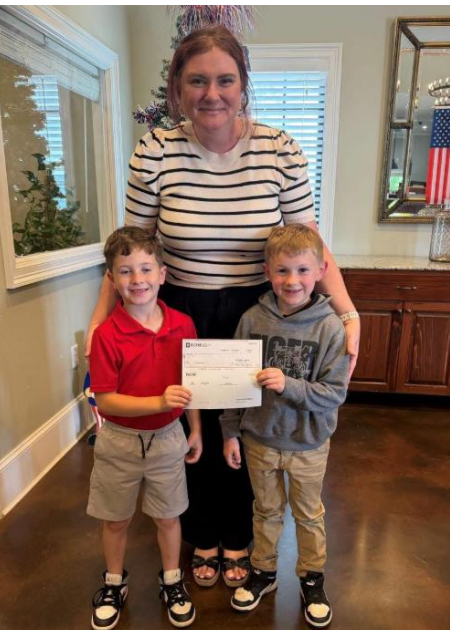
Caddo/Bossier:

BOM Bank was proud to have a full crew attend the Annual Evergreen Life Services Banquet, Masquerade in the Quarter. This wonderful event raised funds to support Evergreen Life Services’ mission of providing essential services and opportunities for adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities throughout our community. We are honored to support organizations that make a meaningful difference in the lives of others and help create a more inclusive, supportive future for all. Pictured left to right: BOM’s Sam Marvin, Drew Baker, Ireland Slocum, Melinda Williams, Eldeen Potter, LaToya Braziel, Jessica Ammons, and Catie Colvin.

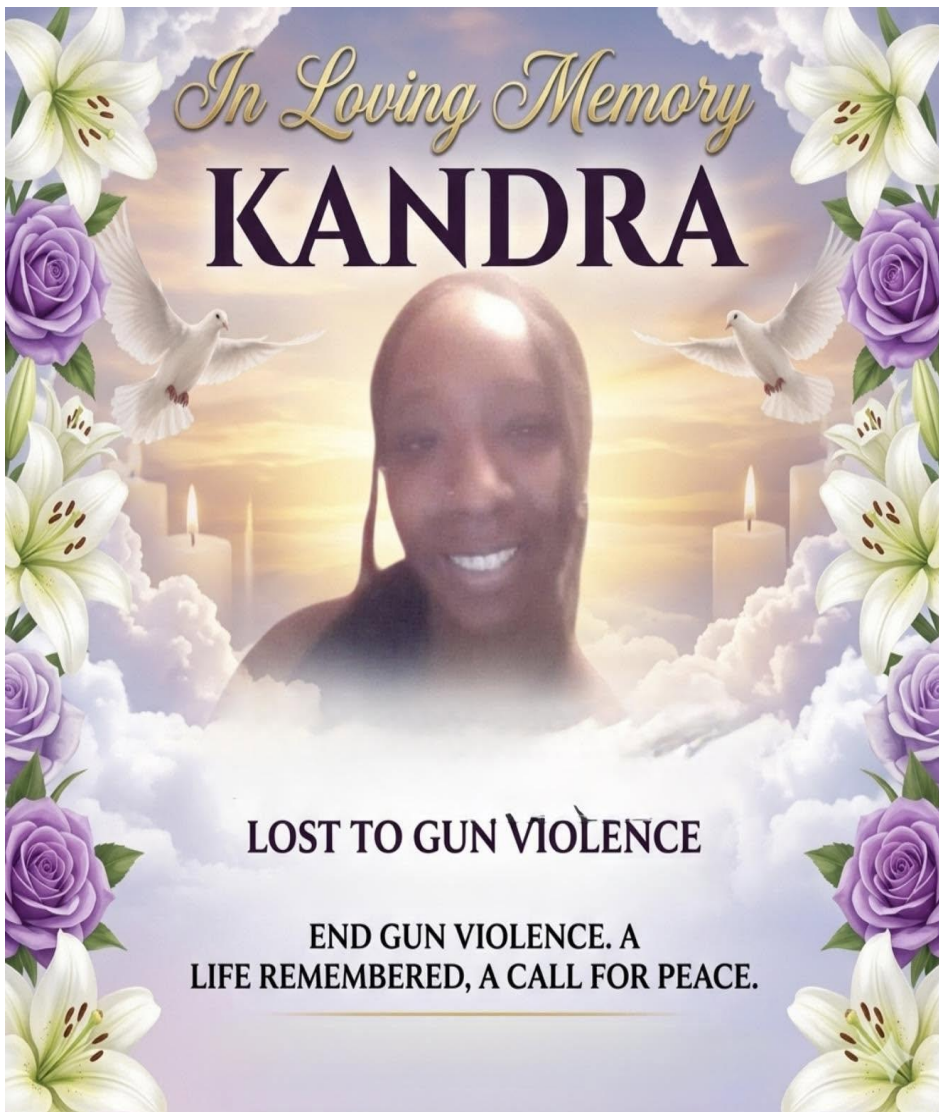


SABINE:

BOM Bank was proud to support the 7/8U Astros Many Dixie Youth Team. Youth sports provide valuable opportunities for children to learn teamwork, sportsmanship, dedication, and leadership while building lasting friendships and memories. We are honored to support programs that help young athletes grow both on and off the field and strengthen our communities for the future. Pictured: Kent Conday, BOM’s Kim Wilkerson, and Cyrus Rainer.



Breaking the Silence: Neighbors Urged to Speak Up on Unsolved Local Homicides.



Kandra Randolph Murdered Jan. 28, 2021

JUSTICE FOR MARCUS SOWELL JR.

UNSOLVED HOMICIDE



Marcus Sowell Jr. was only 23 years old when his life was taken.

**WE WILL NOT FORGET.
WE WILL NOT BE SILENT.**

DATE: DECEMBER 26, 2023

LOCATION: 312 TEXAS STREET NATCHITOCHE, LA 71457

BORN: AUGUST 25, 2000 (23 YEARS OLD)

IF YOU KNOW ANYTHING ABOUT THIS HOMICIDE, SPEAK UP!
EVEN THE SMALLEST DETAIL COULD HELP BRING ANSWERS AND JUSTICE TO HIS FAMILY. YOU CAN REMAIN ANONYMOUS.

CONTACT & TIP LINES

 NATCHITOCHE POLICE DEPARTMENT (318) 352-6101	 NATCHITOCHE PARISH SHERIFF'S OFFICE (318) 352-6432	 CRIME STOPPERS ANONYMOUS TIP LINE (318) 238-2388
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<small>ANONYMOUS TIPS CAN ALSO BE SUBMITTED THROUGH THE</small> P3 TIPS APP	DETECTIVE CONTACTS	
<small>Download on the App Store Get it on Google Play</small>	<small>DETECTIVE</small> DAVANTA STEVENSON (318) 357-3814	<small>DETECTIVE</small> CHARLES CASSELS (318) 357-3858
	<small>DETECTIVE</small> WILLIAM CONNELL (318) 238-3911	

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SEE SOMETHING. SAY SOMETHING.

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A LIFE
CELEBRATION
— HONORING THE LIFE OF —
Chris
“BULL”
Small
A MAN. A LEGEND. A LEGACY.
His strength inspired us.
His presence mattered.
His memory will live forever.

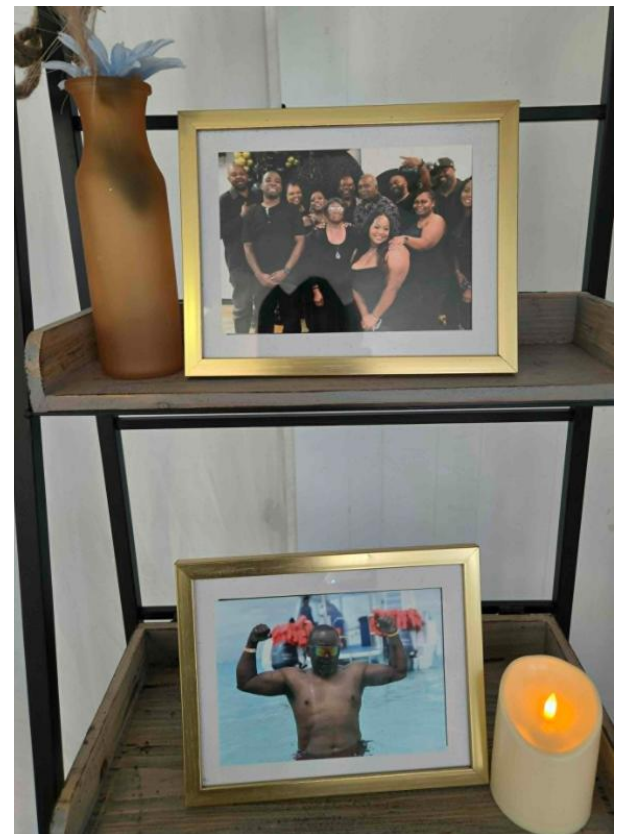
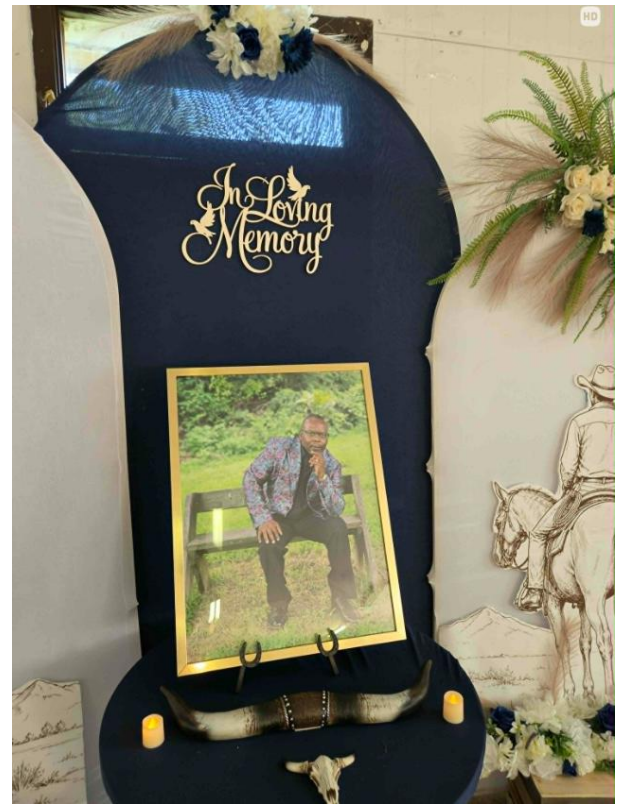
PLEASE JOIN US AS WE
**CELEBRATE A LIFE
WELL LIVED**

— SATURDAY —
JUNE 27, 2026
— 6:00 PM —

📍 **CLARENCE CAFETERIA**
EVERYONE IS WELCOME.
COME SHARE MEMORIES,
LOVE, AND CELEBRATE
THE LIFE OF A TRUE ICON.

FOREVER
IN OUR
Hearts

LOVED DEEPLY. RESPECTED GREATLY. NEVER FORGOTTEN.



A LIFE
CELEBRATION
— HONORING THE LIFE OF —
Chris
“BULL”
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A MAN. A LEGEND. A LEGACY.
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— SATURDAY —
JUNE 27, 2026
6:00 PM

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A LIFE CELEBRATION
 — HONORING THE LIFE OF —
Chris "BULL" Small
 A MAN. A LEGEND. A LEGACY.
 His strength inspired us.
 His presence mattered.
 His memory will live forever.

PLEASE JOIN US AS WE
 CELEBRATE A LIFE
 WELL LIVED

— SATURDAY —
JUNE 27, 2026
 6:00 PM

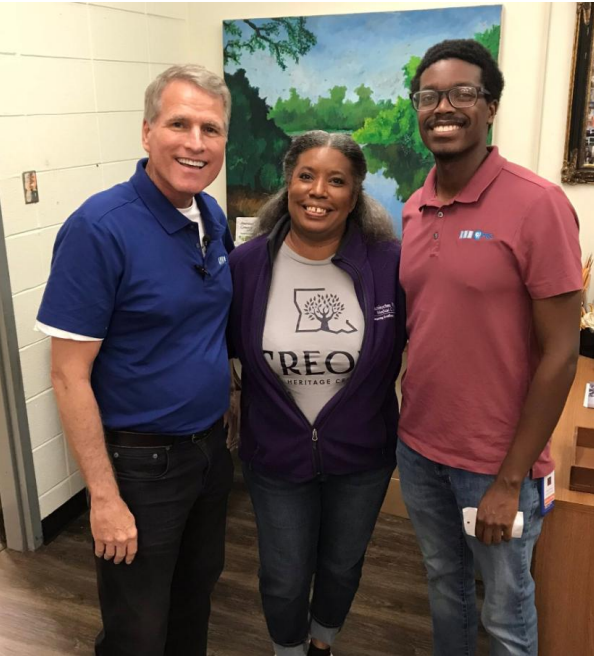
📍 CLARENCE CAFETERIA
 EVERYONE IS WELCOME.
 COME SHARE MEMORIES,
 LOVE, AND CELEBRATE
 THE LIFE OF A TRUE ICON.

LOVED DEEPLY. RESPECTED GREATLY. NEVER FORGOTTEN.

FOREVER IN OUR Hearts



CREOLE · HERITAGE CENTER AT NORTHWESTERN STATE UNIVERSITY



🎥 Tune in on LPB Louisiana Public Broadcasting!

Johnny Atkinson sits down at the **Creole Heritage Center at NSU** to celebrate and share our rich **Creole History, Heritage, and Culture.**

More information coming soon!



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The future of Downtown Natchitoches is taking shape, and we want to hear from you. Join us for a public meeting to review the draft Downtown Natchitoches Master Plan and share your thoughts on the future of our historic district.

Wednesday, July 1, 2026

5:30 – 6:30 PM

Natchitoches City Council Chambers, 716 Second Street

This planning effort was made possible through a grant from the Louisiana Main Street Program and is intended to complement the City's Natchitoches Next Comprehensive Plan, adopted in 2023. While Natchitoches Next established a community-wide vision for growth and development, it did not include a detailed plan specifically focused on Downtown Natchitoches. This plan provides targeted recommendations and strategies for the historic downtown district while supporting the broader goals and priorities already established by the City.

The Downtown Master Plan will help guide future investments, economic development, beautification efforts, public spaces, transportation improvements, and strategies to ensure downtown remains a vibrant place to live, work, and visit.

Whether you're a resident, business owner, property owner, or simply care about the future of our community, your input matters, and we hope you'll join the conversation.

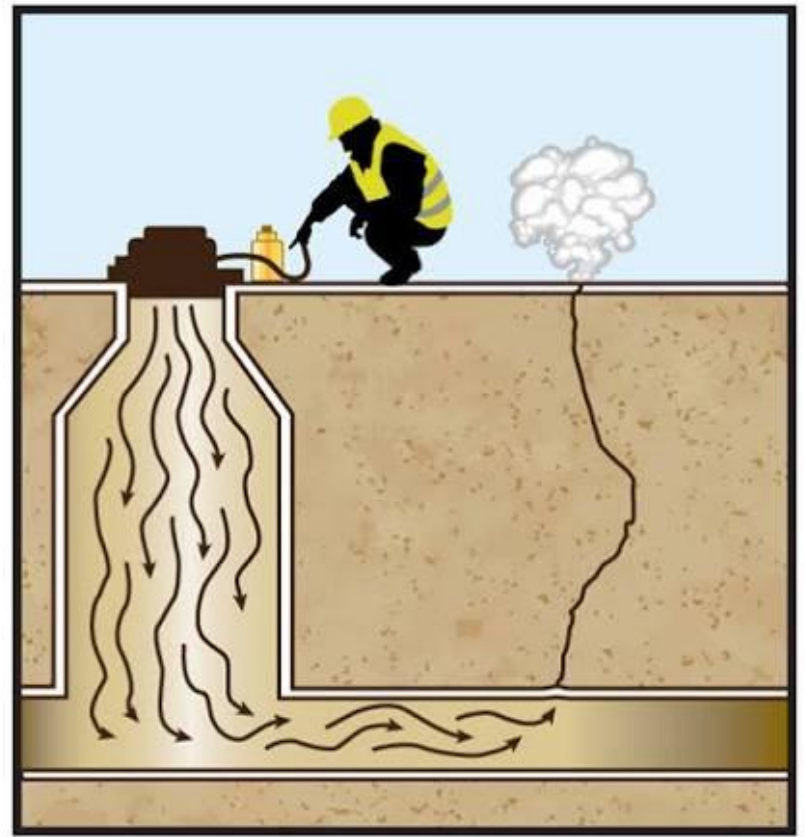
For more information, contact the Cane River National Heritage Area at (318) 356-5555.





UTILITY DEPARTMENT TO CONDUCT SMOKE TESTS THROUGHOUT THE CITY OF NATCHITOCHEES

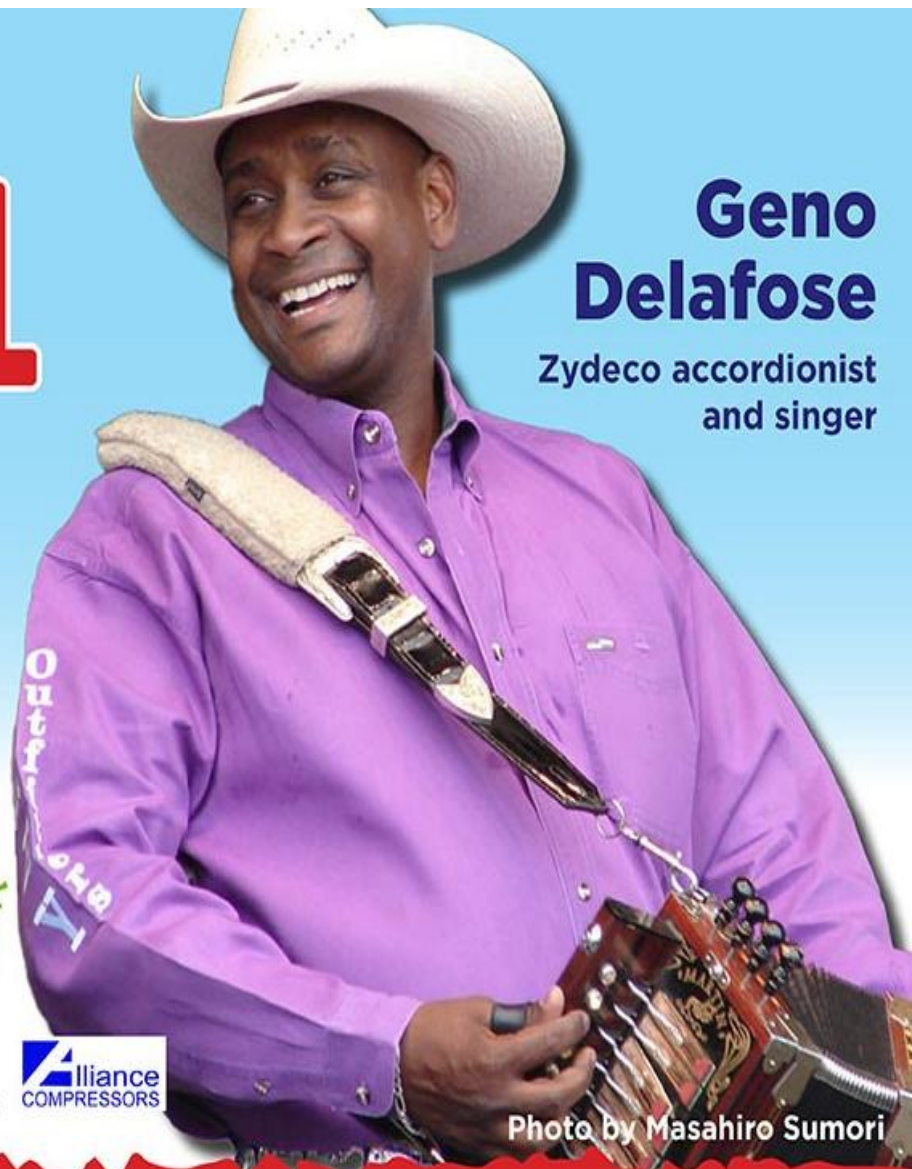
NATCHITOCHEES – The City of Natchitoches Utility Department would like to notify the public that smoke tests will be conducted Monday, June 29, 2026, through Friday, July 10, 2026, throughout the City of Natchitoches. Customers may see a harmless non-toxic smoke coming from sewer vents and pipes but should not be alarmed. If you have any questions or concerns regarding these tests, contact the Utility Department at (318)357-3850.



Natchitoches-NSU FOLK FESTIVAL

July 18, 2026

Prather Coliseum NSU Campus



Geno Delafosse

Zydco accordionist and singer

Photo by Masahiro Sumori



NATCHITOCHES

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NAACP**NAACP Applauds Supreme Court Decision Affirming Birthright Citizenship**

WASHINGTON — The NAACP welcomes the United States Supreme Court's decision affirming the constitutional guarantee of birthright citizenship under the Fourteenth Amendment.

In upholding more than a century of legal precedent, the Court reaffirmed a foundational principle of American democracy: that all persons born on U.S. soil are citizens, regardless of their parentage.



"Trump's attempted assault on the 14th Amendment was dealt a major blow today. This decision is a powerful affirmation of the Constitution and the enduring promise of equality it represents," said **Derrick Johnson, President & CEO of the NAACP**. "For over 150 years, the Fourteenth Amendment has guaranteed citizenship to everyone born in this country. Today, the Court rightly rejected efforts to undermine that core protection and instead upheld a principle that is essential to our democracy."

The NAACP emphasized that the principle of birthright citizenship was enshrined in the aftermath of the Civil War to ensure that formerly enslaved people and their descendants would be recognized as full citizens. The Court's decision preserves that legacy and reinforces the Constitution's commitment to equal protection under the law.

While celebrating the decision, the NAACP will monitor ongoing efforts to challenge civil and human rights. The Association will remain vigilant and committed to defending the progress we have made and advancing justice for all.

The NAACP reaffirmed its commitment to protecting civil rights and ensuring that the Constitution's promises are fully realized for every community across the nation.



“ The NAACP will continue to advocate for policies that dismantle systemic injustices and strive to improve the lives of the Black people and all Americans.

- DERRICK JOHNSON, PRESIDENT AND CEO, NAACP

NSU professor will compete on Jeopardy July 2

NATCHITOCHEES – Dr. Joseph “Andy” Briseno, an associate professor in Northwestern State University’s Department of English, Languages and Cultural Studies, will be a contestant on the popular gameshow Jeopardy on Thursday, July 2.

Viewers can watch the episode on KTBS Channel 3 in the Shreveport and Natchitoches areas at 4:30 p.m. The show is also broadcast on their sister station, KPXJ CW 21, at 5:30 p.m. Live streaming is available for subscribers to services that include local affiliates, such as YouTube TV or Hulu.

Briseno is unable to provide details about his experience until after the broadcast, except to say that “Ken Jennings is the nicest guy.”



Natchitoches-NSU FOLK FESTIVAL July 18, 2026 Prather Coliseum NSU Campus

Kevin Naquin



Photo by David Simpson

COMMUNITY EVENTS

NATCHITOCHES, LA

BATTLE OF THE BATS

TWO DIVISION SOFTBALL TOURNAMENT

WELCOME to NATCHITOCHES Louisiana

TWO DIVISIONS MEN CO-ED

1ST PLACE WINS \$500
A TEAM ENTRY FEE IS \$250

JULY 18

HIGHLAND PARK NATCHITOCHES, LA

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SCAN THE QR CODE TO REGISTER YOUR TEAM

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